1	2	3	4	5
3.	Chhattisgarh	Bilaspur	11	31
		Janjgir-Champa	10	24
		Korba	3	29
		Durg	14	71
		Kawardha	6	40
		Rajnandgaon	6	39
		Dhamtari	2	5
		Mahasamund	2	5
		Raipur	11	28
		Korea	4	23
		Surguja	5	37
		Bastar	5	25
		Dantewada	0	0
		Kanker	7	23
		Jaspurnagar	17	93
		Raigarh	10	51
		Total	**113**	**524**
		GRAND TOTAL	256	1136

Wider spectrum for cell phone operators

1556. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether cell phone operators have sought for a wider spectrum; and

(b) if so, the names of these operators and Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Based on their requirements GSM cellular spectrum upto 6.2 MHz (with paired spectrum) is being

assigned to all the service providers in their respective areas. Further requests for additional radio spectrum have been received from various cellular service providers and examined in accordance with policy guidelines in this regard. Additional spectrum has been coordinated and earmarked to M/s. Bharti Cellular Ltd., New Delhi, M/s. Hutchison Essar Telecom. Ltd., New Delhi, M/s. Hutchison Max Telecom Ltd., Mumbai and M/s. BPL Mobile Communication Ltd., Mumbai, after they have crossed subscriber base of 5 lakhs each in their respective service areas.

Telephone facilities in rural areas

1557. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) Government's policy for providing telephone facilities in rural areas;

(b) the position regarding availability of telephone facility in rural areas; and

(c) what has been private sector's response in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) The Government policy for providing telephone facilities in rural areas is:

(i) Strive to provide a balance between the provision of universal service to all uncovered areas, including rural areas.

(ii) Encourage development of telecom in rural areas making it more affordable by suitable tariff restructuring and making rural communication mandatory for all fixed service providers.

(iii) Increase teledensity to 3% by March 2007 and connecting all the rural exchanges in the country on reliable media by 2003.

(b) The status of rural telephony as on 31-12-2002 is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) Earlier the pace of development by private operator was slow. But now the Private Operator's progress has picked up and they have been asked to implement their obligation as per the license condition.